

## **30th Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB) concluded**

The 30th Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB) concluded successfully today at the ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Mukteshwar campus. During the valedictory session, several scientists were felicitated and awarded for their outstanding presentations and contributions in various technical sessions.



Dr. Praveen Malik, CEO, Agrinnovate India and Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, Dr. Malik emphasized that One Health is a broad and integrated concept encompassing food systems, agriculture, wildlife, and the environment. He highlighted the need to strengthen data management and promote coordinated action between central and state agencies.



Referring to IVRI as the “Mecca and Medina of Veterinary Science,” he urged students to contribute actively to research and innovation in this premier institute.

Dr. Triveni Dutt, Director, ICAR–IVRI, stated that the One Health initiative represents a multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach in education and research. He noted that the program would greatly benefit not only the institute but also national and international stakeholders. Dr. Dutt underlined that science, technology, innovation, and skill development are the cornerstones of a nation’s progress, and IVRI aims to strengthen collaborations with industries, universities, and research institutions to position India as a global research leader.

Highlighting the institute’s growing industrial partnerships, Dr. Dutt mentioned that 23 industrial partners are currently associated with IVRI’s research programs. The IL company is supporting the establishment of a BSL-3 laboratory at the Bengaluru campus, while organizations like MSP are continuously encouraging students through fellowships and sponsorships.



IVRI has recently launched a Diploma Programme in One Health through Open and Distance Learning mode and is set to introduce a Master’s Programme in One Health from the next academic session, which has already received approval from the Academic Council.

Dr. Bimlesh Mann, Assistant Director General (Education Policy & Human Resources), ICAR, shared his insights on the academic implementation of One Health and its significance for food safety. He stressed that One Health should not remain limited to research and policy but should be integrated into educational curricula. He suggested that all agricultural universities introduce One Health components at the undergraduate level to ensure future veterinarians, food scientists, and environmental experts can apply this concept effectively in practice.



Dr. Gyanendra Gongal, Regional Officer, WHO South-East Asia, commended India's leadership in innovation and expertise, emphasizing the need to strengthen research and technical collaborations in the areas of public health and One Health. He warned that climate change poses major challenges to food security, plant health, and human health, and called for enhanced regional cooperation among South Asian countries to combat transboundary diseases.



Dr. R. P. Singh, Director, Directorate of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Bhubaneswar, appreciated the remarkable transformation of the Mukteshwar campus over the past 35 years. He suggested that the institute's infrastructure could be utilized by other academic and research institutions for organizing scientific and educational programs, thereby fostering greater academic vibrancy and innovation. He also acknowledged the role of the Mukteshwar campus in promoting animal health, livestock production, and local entrepreneurship, contributing significantly to rural development.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Yashpal Malik, Joint Director (Mukteshwar), extended his gratitude to all dignitaries, delegates, and participants. He assured that the key recommendations and outcomes of the convention would be communicated to relevant ministries to strengthen national strategies for addressing One Health challenges.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Amit Kumar and Dr. Karam Chand, and was attended by a large number of scientists, researchers, students, and institute officials.